

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



TPI Corporation
America's Comfort Conditioning Company
Manufacturers of Heating Equipment, Ventilation Equipment, Lighting Equipment, & Controls

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Repairing Leaky Faucets Cuts Money Down The Drain

The Member

TPI Corporation, a family owned business, has operated its manufacturing facility in Washington County since 1950. The facility of 540,000 sq ft employs 700 associates and manufactures a variety of heating/cooling products including thermostats, heaters, and industrial grade fans up to 48 inches in diameter. Management of TPI Corporation is dedicated to providing a positive work atmosphere and is focused on the quality of life for their associates and being good neighbors in the community. The stated goal of TPI Corporation is to be the most environmentally friendly company in the state of Tennessee. Although currently not ISO 14001 certified, the corporation is establishing its environmental management system compliant to the standard.



The Story

TPI Corporation management has always conducted their business to minimize the overuse of materials and eliminate waste wherever possible. When establishing their goals for 2003, the TPI Environmental Management team identified a significant water conservation project with their seven washroom facilities located throughout the 540,000 sq ft operation. Phase one consisted of expanding the preventative maintenance and repair program to include lavatory faucets in addition to other previously selected facility aspects. Water meters were utilized to establish the leak rate per faucet and calculations were made showing not only a positive environmental impact from

stopping the leaks, but also a significant cost saving opportunity for the TPI Corporation. Phase two consisted of repairing all leaky faucets and performing preventative maintenance to assure the water use reduction remained in effect.



The Success

When the project was completed in November 2003, TPI Corporation determined that they had reduced their water consumption by 135 gallons per hour. This equates to almost 1.2M gallons annually, which is equivalent to the usage of 20 average households. The savings to TPI Corporation is \$11,826 in conserved water and a substantial benefit to the environment and local utility as a reduced demand for water. Johnson City draws their potable water from the Watauga Lake that is utilized extensively for recreation in the area. Certainly this shows that what is good for the environment is good for TPI Corporation.

The Pollution Prevented

Through institution of this preventative maintenance initiative, TPI is no longer directly diverting 135 gallons of fresh water per day to gray water for the local municipal treatment facility. Continual improvement is a TPI Corporation operating value and this project supports their commitment to conserve natural resources, protect the environment, and be good neighbors.

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